

CLAIMS

1. An automatic washing machine detergent dispensing device comprising a bar of detergent or detergent additive disposed within a channel, wherein the detergent bar completely fills at least a portion of the channel across the entire bore of the channel, the channel having an inlet aperture which is in communication therewith.

2. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the channel has a uniform bore, along its length / at least along the portion filled by the detergent bar.

3. A device in accordance with claim 1 or 2, wherein the channel is a tube.

4. A device in accordance with claim 4, wherein the tube is cylindrical.

5. A device in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the channel has one open end which communicates with the inlet aperture.

6. A device in accordance with claim 5, wherein the channel comprises a form similar to a drinking glass.

7. A device in accordance with claim 1,2,3 or 4, wherein the channel has a plurality of (such as two) open ends each of which being in communication with an inlet aperture.

8. A device in accordance with claim 5, wherein the channel comprises a tube both ends of which are open.

9. A device in accordance with claim 5,6,7 or 8, wherein the open end of the channel comprises the inlet aperture.

10. A device in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the channel has a secondary aperture.

11. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the secondary aperture comprises a slit in the side of the channel.

12. A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the secondary aperture may comprise a plurality of separate apertures.

13. A device in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein a barrier is arranged around the periphery of the channel.

14. A device in accordance with claims 13, wherein the barrier comprises a sleeve arranged around the exterior of the channel.

15. A device in accordance with any one of claims 10 to 14, wherein the diameter of the secondary aperture is larger than the holes of the dishwasher sieve.

16. A device in accordance with any one of claims 10 to 14, wherein the diameter of the secondary aperture is less than 5mm.

17. A device in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the device comprises a means to control the amount of wash liquor which contacts the detergent bar.

18. A device in accordance with claim 17, wherein the means comprises a collecting funnel.

19. A device in accordance with claim 18, wherein the collecting funnel has a drainage opening in its collecting portion.

20. A device in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein the channel comprises a water-resistant / water insoluble material.

5 21. The use of an automatic washing machine detergent dispensing device in an automatic washing machine process, wherein the device comprises a bar of detergent disposed within a channel, the detergent bar completely filling at least a portion of the channel across the entire bore of the channel, the channel having an aperture which is in communication therewith.

10 22. An automatic washing machine process, comprising a detergent dispensing device, wherein the device comprises a bar of detergent disposed within a channel, the detergent bar completely filling at least a portion of the channel across the entire bore of the channel, the channel having an aperture which is in communication therewith.